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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
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Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 6

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Written statement submitted by the World Federation of Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category I), by the American Association of Jurists, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, the International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, Pax Christi International, Pax Romana, non-governmental organizations in consultative status (category II), and by the Centre Europe-Tiers Monde, a non-governmental organization on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[12 August 1992]

1. There was no let up last year in serious violations of the basic principles of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. We therefore welcome the decision the Commission on Human Rights took in its resolution 1992/67 dated 4 March 1992 to extend for a further year the mandate of the Special Representative appointed to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

2. We would like the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to adopt a resolution at its current session strongly condemning the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its continuing violations of the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

3. In recent months, there has been an unprecedented increase in repression in the Islamic Republic of Iran. At least seven large demonstrations in the main cities were violently put down by the pasdarans. Over 1,000 persons were arrested as a result of these demonstrations and nobody knows what has become of them. Reports also indicate that many of them have been executed.

4. The Iranian regime has officially announced the execution of four demonstrators in Mashad and nine others in Shiraz. However, organizations which monitor the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran consider that the number of executions is much higher. Most of these victims were executed because of their real or alleged sympathies with the Mojahedin. On 31 May 1992, Mr. Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, quoted Ayatollah Khomeiny as saying that "As far as the Mojahedin are concerned, the death sentence is applicable to the organization as a whole and not to individuals so that there will be no hesitation in labelling persons as 'enemies of God' and 'corruptors on Earth'" (Etelaat newspaper). These two accusations are punishable by the death penalty in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This verdict has again been widely disseminated in the Government daily newspapers.

5. On 10 June, Mr. Khameneï, the leader of the current regime, referring on a radio programme to demonstrators and persons who had been arrested, said that: "The forces of law and order have to treat them like weeds that have to be chopped down and burned". In endorsing this statement, Mr. Rafsanjani and the regime's senior leaders openly called for increased repression and executions.

6. This was what prompted the Iranian regime to put an end to the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and expel its delegation. The significance of this decision is understandable in the light of the efforts the Islamic Republic of Iran made in the United Nations General Assembly in 1991, when it agreed to allow ICRC to visit its prisons in order to neutralize a resolution condemning it. Since ICRC's expulsion, Iranian prisons are no longer being visited by any international body.

7. Repression by the Iranian regime does not stop at the country's borders. Throughout Europe, its official agents are hunting down opponents mercilessly. The murder of Professor Kazem Radjavi, a great defender of human rights, is the most striking example. The Swiss examining magistrate in charge of the investigation clearly showed that the Iranian authorities were responsible for this murder. In addition, the press agencies reported the kidnapping on 4 June 1992 of a member of the Mojahedin in Turkey and the two bomb attacks on his vehicles.

8. The barbarity of the Iranian regime cannot fail to make an impression on the enlightened conscience of mankind. In his report to the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1992/34), the Special

Representative stated that: "The number of executions has increased week by week, with no sign of any reduction" (para. 409) and "Reported methods of torture included flogging with whips or cables on the feet or on the back, suspension by the wrists, deprivation of sleep for extended periods and various forms of psychological torture" (para. 128). In paragraph 478, he concluded that: "The Government of Iran should once again be urgently called upon to comply with international human rights standards".

9. In view of the continued repression - 16 persons were hanged in Hamadan (western part of the country) on Thursday, 30 July 1992 - the above-mentioned organizations request the Chairman and the Experts of the Sub-Commission to adopt, in a strong resolution expressing the Sub-Commission's concern about serious and constant violations of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The strengthening of the Special Representative's mandate is necessary and ICRC has to be able to carry out its humanitarian work.